

Sandy Point

Sandy Point Community Group



NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter



OUR STORY

SHOWS

GALLERY

CONTACT



SANDY POINT MUSIC

Coming Up Next

Photo credit: Donna Killeen

Let's Chat!



New Sandy Point websites launched!



learn more about Sandy Point

sandypoint.vic.au



Please JOIN US - sandypoint.vic.au/membership

The Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG), through community engagement, advocates on behalf of the community and is committed to preserving our unique natural environment.



We acknowledge the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



SANDCASTLE COMP.



Yes, it was a wee bit wild and windy, but not enough to stop our committed sandcastlers.

To see more Sandcastle Competition photos, go to our website - www.sandypoint.vic.au/news/sandcastle-competition-dec-2023

With thanks to photographers - Nicky Walker, Anne Kinne, Marie Devine.





Sandy Point
Community Group

President's Report



With our busy summer over, we are looking towards the Easter holidays and experiencing some lovely autumn days, with many beachgoers still enjoying our wonderful beaches and water sports on the Inlet. This Autumn Newsletter provides news, upcoming events and the amazing progress of the many volunteer Sandy Point community groups, and capped off with some interesting articles.

I was intrigued by the Dune Fence article as I have been coming to Sandy Point since the late 1950's and I cannot recall the fence debacle, but do remember the fun we had as kids running up the steep sand dunes and rolling down! However, I must admit, I was one of the very few that slept through the earthquake – the earth did not move for me!

Our summer activities of the Sandcastle Competition and Sausage Sizzle were both successful events with providing community engagement, entertainment and the necessary boost to our funds! The Sandcastle Competition organisers, Liz and Doug Brown, commented that "It was wonderful to see so much fun being had by the kids and parents. It is a special event which highlights the amazing interaction between our locals and the holiday community". We thank all the helpers and the Sandy Point General Store and Aldi Leongatha for their generous sponsorship. The Foodies and Artisan Market was well attended and appreciated by locals and holiday makers. The regular vendors did comment that although they were happy with their takings, it was down from the previous year – a sign of the times perhaps.

Due to lack of availability of committee members, we will not be holding a Sandcastle Competition this Easter. The running of these events do involve a large amount of pre planning and organisation prior to the event and we have had such a busy summer with our projects we just didn't have the resources to get it underway.

The **Town Hall Meeting** held at the Community Centre on January 21st was well attended and resulted in active participation from the community. See the notes from meeting: [SPCG Town Hall Meeting — Sandy Point, Victoria](#)

www.sandypoint.vic.au/news/spcg-town-hall-meeting-january2024

The **Community Garden** is flourishing, and has created great interest from the kids and parents visiting the playground whilst the diligent workers have been maintaining the garden. SPCG is responding to their request to create an additional wicking bed, sign and seat by looking into the availability of appropriate grants.

Historical interpretive signs: are currently being completed and installation will be organised soon.

Caravan Park subdivision: the SPCG sub group is currently reviewing the original SPCG submission to VCAT to emphasise key points regarding Sandy Point urban design & character, environment and water catchment prior to attending the hearing scheduled for 29th April – 7th May.

Midwinter Feast – a taste of South Gippsland : Manna Community Gardens and SPCG have joined forces to bring to you an opportunity to join us for a gourmet lunch comprising of locally sourced and foraged produce and to enjoy friendly, community conversation and company. To be held on Saturday July 27th 12.00 – 2.00pm at the Sandy Point Community Centre . Not to be missed! Further information and booking details to follow closer to the date.

Happy Easter everyone and enjoy the school holidays! As always please be mindful on our shared roads, speed limits and adhere to Dogs on Beach regulations.

Kind Regards,
Anne Kinne,
President SPCG

SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL

As many of our readers will know, on Thursday 8 February the residents of Sandy Point were shaken awake at just before 1am by an earthquake. It was a magnitude 4.3, with the epicentre near Meeniyah and was a lot more noticeable than the 3.1 earthquake that was experienced near Foster just two days before. That one it seems was not strong enough to be felt by many people in Sandy Point.

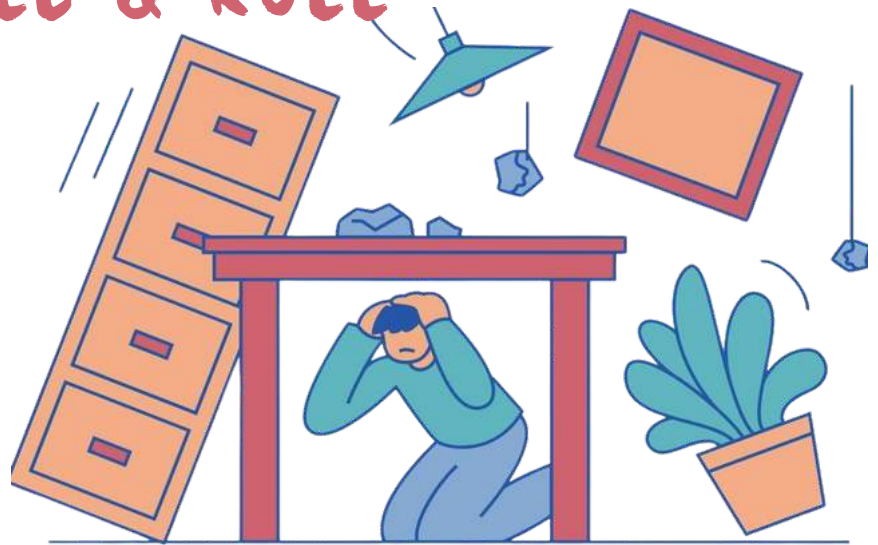
Apparently, on average, 100 earthquakes of magnitude 3 or more are recorded in Australia each year. Earthquakes above magnitude 5.0, such as the destructive 1989 Newcastle earthquake, however only occur on average every one-to-two years.

Fortunately for us, our recent quake did not seem to do any real damage to property in Sandy Point, apart from a few items falling off shelves. Nearly everyone said they were shaken awake by it and many heard a rumbling noise one resident likened to a freight train coming past. Most residents reported that their windows rattled loudly and one or two people said it affected their power for a very short time. The whole experience fortunately only lasted for about 15 seconds.

My own experience of the quake was similar. We were woken by the noise as the whole house started heaving and creaking and the glass shower screen door in the bathroom started vibrating very loudly.

We had experienced a quake like this a few years ago during the day time and on that occasion we ran outside onto the road in case the house fell down on us. (It didn't!) Fortunately this time the quake stopped quite quickly and we realised we didn't need to go outside. No damage was done to our house and the shower screen door is still intact!

Then, as most of you will remember, about two weeks later a wild storm hit Victoria causing severe damage to houses and vegetation and prolonged power outages in many areas. Fortunately again we missed the worst of it, with reportedly little damage being done and our power only going off for a few hours.



So, it seems, this is just another thing we can look forward to when living in Sandy Point – though its wild winds and stormy seas are seen as a plus by many of our resident and visiting surfers and wave sailors!

If you'd like to find out more about earthquakes in Australia then go to: Geoscience Australia

www.ga.gov.au/education/natural-hazards/earthquake

Article by Di Cornwell

Sandy Point
Community Group
& Manna Community Garden
present

MIDWINTER FEAST

~ A TASTE OF SOUTH GIPPSLAND ~

Join us in a lunch experience of locally sourced
and foraged South Gippsland produce

Sat 27th July, 2024
Sandy Point Community Centre
12.00 -2.00pm

Save the date!

..AND THEN THERE WAS ONE!

Can we help this last SP chick to survive?



Five Hoodie chicks had hatched on the SP spit at the end of February - only one survives! Recreational beach-users who share the Hoodies' home can take steps outlined below to help this chick survive past Easter when it will be old enough to fly from danger.

Hooded Plover parents send their flightless chick in to hiding when a threat approaches (including people on foot, bike or horse) so it cannot forage and stays motionless till the threat is gone. The chick feeds itself, ranging from waters-edge to debris and weed at the top of the beach.

The chick's parents are constantly vigilant to protect against natural predators such as ravens, magpies and gulls, our presence distracts from this.

This little family forages 1.5 km along the ocean beach from Designated track towards Wilson's Prom, and past the rope-fenced nest area across the spit to Shallow Inlet.

Please heed BLA signs, don't linger, stick to water's edge and always leash your dogs.



3 day old chicks and parent - BLA tag 'VN' Feb.24



Sole surviving chick to date

*Photography according to Bird Life Australia Guidelines using long lens.

Please
HELP OUR HOODIES

- Leash your dogs
- Keep to water's edge
- Avoid high tide
- Watch where you walk
- Stay away from fenced nesting areas

PS. The pair featured in the last newsletter (with the first SP fledgling in December), hatched two chicks several days earlier than the trio in these photos - one of which survived till the week before Easter.

"Be safe and happy over Easter, let's share the love and help this little one survive."

Follow the fortunes of SP Hoodies at www.sandypoint.vic.au/hoodies

Report and photos by Wendy Hayes, BLA Volunteer Monitor

Contact kasun.ekanayake@birdlife.org.au if interested in becoming a BirdLife Australia volunteer monitor.

Waratah Inspired Designs
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Tee shirts, tote bags,
aprons, caps, mugs ...

waratahinspired.com.au

Bookmark these new Sandy Point websites

Two Sandy Point groups now have a new website to help you to connect with them and their activities. Please check them out and use their website contact forms to send your appreciation and encouragement for all that these volunteers do for the Sandy Point community.

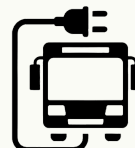
sandypointmusic.com



On the Sandy Point Music (SPM) website you can ...

- Check the upcoming live music shows, who's playing and when.
- Get your show tickets from Trybooking
- Sign up your email address to be kept updated on all live music news
- View the gallery of photos of past shows and audiences going wild.
- Read FAQs or contact SPM with your questions or feedback

sandypointebus.com



On the Sandy Point Bus Management Committee (SPBMC) website you can ...

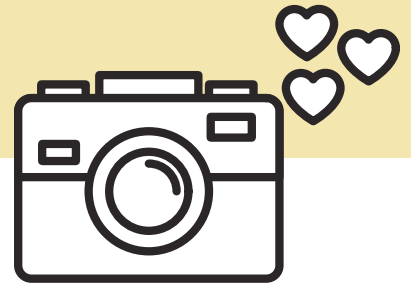
- Learn more about the Gippsland Community eBus Pilot Project and what it means for Sandy Point
- Check the Weekly Schedule to see ebus availability and scheduled trips you can join
- Access the online booking form
- Contact SPBMC bus managers with your questions or feedback.



Find all Sandy Point groups and organisations, with links to their websites and contact details, on the Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG) website

www.sandypoint.vic.au/groups-and-organisations

Give us your Best Shot!



We can't resist photographing our beautiful beach, inlet, nature and people around Sandy Point and Shallow Inlet.

As each quarterly newsletter is published, we announce the next Sandy Point Best Shot. The photo then appears on our newsletter cover, website home page, and social media pages. for the next 3 months.

Go to www.sandypoint.vic.au/best-shot to ...



- View previously selected Best Shots and photographers
- Use our online form to upload your best shot of Sandy Point or Shallow Inlet
- Give permission to publish your photo and name.

You could be our next celebrated photographer.



Photo: Mike Smith (2023)



Photo: Mike Smith (2023)



Photo: Mike Smith (2023)



Photo: Mike Smith (2023)



Photo: Mike Smith (2023)



Photo: Mike Smith (2023)



Photo: Mike Smith (2023)



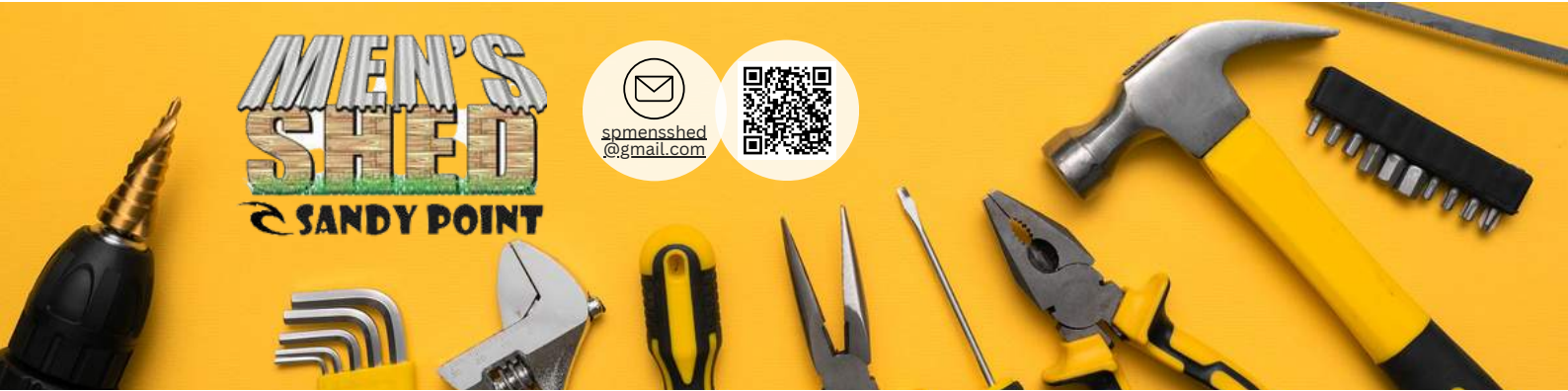
Photo: Mike Smith (2023)



Photo: Mike Smith (2023)

www.sandypoint.vic.au

ABOUT US OUR COMMUNITY **OUR PLACE** PROJECTS EVENTS NEWS    



The AGM of the Sandy Point Community Men’s Shed (Inc) was held on Wednesday the 13 March 2024, at the Community Centre. All positions were filled and it was encouraging see the willingness of shed members to take on the various roles.

2023 was a challenging year for the group, due to the complications with obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy (CoO) from the Building surveyor. This has left the group in the position of only being permitted to carry out an internal fit out of our portion of the shared facility and not involve group members in the normal “Men’s Shed” like activities. I am grateful to the members who turn up (religiously) on Mondays and Wednesdays to carry out this work.

The stumbling block has been the requirement to install fire retardant material in two of the walls of the shared facility, which was not a part of the original CoO application. This documentation is being completed now and hopefully, will satisfy the Surveyor’s requirements. The “shedders” will be undertaking the actual work involved to install the fire retardant material for the shared facility. I am grateful to Ray Henderson and Chris Cope (WBSLSC) for their work in regard to this.

Our membership is currently 23 financial and 53 non financial members but I believe we will have more people show a willingness to be involved once the Shed is accessible and open for activities.

Our community involvement over the year included assistance at the annual Easter Art Show (ongoing in 2024), installation of park benches/tables along the Roy Henderson Track, the SPCG sausage sizzle/sandcastle competition and the Foodies Festival. We are involved in the eBus project currently underway in Sandy Point and have charging points installed adjacent to our premises.

I will leave comments on these matters to the committee members of these initiatives

The completion of the shared MSAR/Men’s Shed has been compared to the construction of the pyramids, in terms of the time taken but I am hopeful 2024 will be “the year of the shed.”

Adrian Fyfe, President

Public EV Charger

The EV charger continues to provide revenue to the shed and has proven to be invaluable in managing the operation of the community bus. The table below is a summary of the usage data collected.

Month	Total Charges	Billed	Bus Charges	Duration Hours	kW Used	kW used by eBus	Billed
July	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	\$ -
August	5	5	0	1.37	14	0	\$ 8.50
September	5	5	0	7.92	70	0	\$ 42.82
October	6	6	0	12.07	131	0	\$ 78.65
November	5	5	0	9.97	91	0	\$ 53.62
December	12	10	2	93.90	316	25	\$ 113.97
January	42	26	16	124.28	910	339	\$ 336.06
February	16	5	11	65.70	466	358	\$ 63.35
March	3	0	3	11.30	124	124	\$ -
April	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	\$ -
May	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	\$ -
June	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	\$ -
TOTALS	94	62	32	326.50	2,122	845	\$ 696.97

Our Community e-Bus is up and running and I suspect most of you will have seen “Sandy” moving around the neighbourhood. Sandy has already proved his/her worth fulfilling trips to meet the V-line bus service; take barefoot bowlers to the Fishy bowls club; social events at the Fishy and Toora pubs and ferrying wedding guests around.

If you are interested in joining the group of volunteer drivers please get in touch via the contact email address **sandypointebus@gmail.com** headed “EOI as eBus Driver”.

For those wanting more information or even booking the bus please go to the website **www.sandypointebus.com**

For those interested in joining us, we meet regularly, two mornings a week, 9.00am, at the shed, to work on active projects and also once a month (second Wednesday at 7.30) at the Community Centre to manage the group and discuss and plan future activities. You can get more details of our activities at www.sandypoint.vic.au and follow the links to the “Men’s Shed”.

We welcome new members and would encourage anyone interested in joining our group to contact us by sending an email to spmensshed@gmail.com, or by writing to Sandy Point Community Men’s Shed, c/- Post Office, Sandy Point, Victoria 3959.

Phil Cornwell, Treasurer



Our 'Sandy' eBus service was officially launched at the national 2024 Community Energy Congress (Leongatha hub) on March 6.

The Sandy Point Bus Management Committee (SPBMC) led by our local guru and organiser Daniel Millton felt that the congress would be a great time to have an official launch of the eBuses from Sandy Point and Venus Bay. So, with all parties ie. Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), iMOVE, La Trobe University, Venus Bay Community Centre and SPBMC all in agreement, the hard work was done (in 7 days) to get the official launch at the congress.

The speeches in front of a great audience were terrific and very supportive of the efforts to bring community transport to the townships of Sandy Point and Venus Bay. The ribbon was finally cut by the DTP Executive Director - Gippsland, Beth Liley.

The buses, have been up and trialed since delivery in mid December, with booking and scheduling issues continuing to be tested and refined. The two services are as different as their communities, and can now be booked by going to **www.sandypointebus.com** or **www.vbcc.org.au**

*Frank Schrever,
Sandy Point Bus Management Committee Inc.*



Cutting the ribbon. L-R: Daniel Millton (Sandy Point), Beth Liley (DTP), Bill Karambatsos (Venus Bay)



Launch speeches at the Community Energy Congress (Leongatha hub)



eBus trial participants from Sandy Point and Venus Bay, and project partners - Department of Transport and Planning, iMOVE Australia, La Trobe University

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SANDY POINT MUSIC



www.sandypointmusic.com

sandypointmusic@gmail.com

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Coming Up Next

Sandy Point Music (SPM) ...

Thank you to our volunteers who dedicate time and effort to ensure a vibrant music scene at Sandy Point exists. We are grateful for our supporters showing up to keep live music a reality in our little piece of paradise.

On that note the SPM committee have had a couple of changes. David Iser, our long time president and Rob Nicholson are moving on due to changing life commitments. We would like to formally acknowledge their foresight and energy in creating Sandy Point Music (SPM) and growing it to what it is today, a feature of Sandy Point. What a journey! The remaining committee includes Phil Cornwell, Megan Basset, Debbi Daff, Gab Stefani, Rob O’Sullivan, Gene Laity and Donna Killeen, all in various roles. General background support is provided by Robyn, Wendy and Paul.

SPM Action

Our first gig for 2024 was on Saturday 20 January and saw local duo **Benny and Mapes** support local band Rise King Tide, who returned after an eighteen month spell. Benny and Mapes, joined by friend Drew set the scene with originals and funky covers of 70s and 80s hits. The band well and truly warmed the crowd up and showed their true talents with solos and instrument switching.

Rise King Tide made up of locals Dan, Tim, Dave and Angelo had their indie rock style rocking the Community Centre! Accompanying the lights and smoke were all their original songs played with energy, volume, talent and passion. They highlighted their new album with mention of a great little video in the Tarwin Middle Hall. Rise King Tide, talented, independent rock band are on the RISE.



KERRYN FIELDS & MATT JOE GOW

On 17 February, **Kerryn Fields** joined up with **Matt Joe Gow** to produce an amazing powerhouse of masterful songs for our entertainment. Not only were their New Zealand born voices and music entertaining, they warmed our hearts and minds with humour, banter, camaraderie, crowd involvement and “could have heard a pin drop” moments after such meaningful songs. Amazing talented artists.



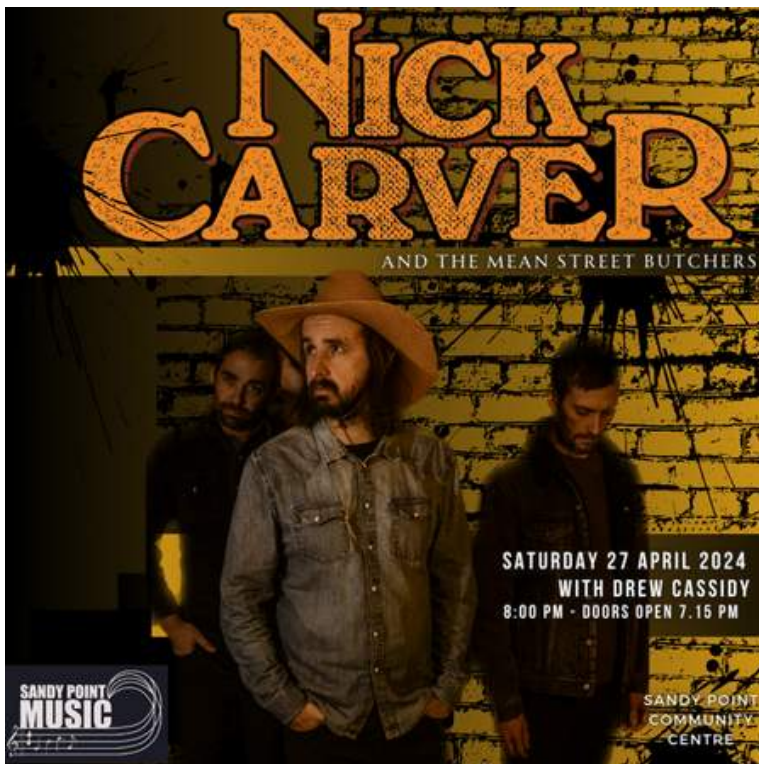
RISE KING TIDE



16 March brought the beautiful Tasmanian Bush Balladeer **Claire Anne Taylor** to Sandy Point, as part of her "Giving It Away" album tour. She graced us with her band and her authentic organic raw style. She was supported by **Jethro Pickett**, an amazing artist in his own right, also from Tasmania. Claire Anne Taylor's voice, together with her very versatile band, shook the baffles of the Community Centre with her heart felt stories told through her songs.



Coming up in the next couple of months



27 April - Nick Carver and The Mean Street Butchers supported by Drew Cassidy

These local musicians combine a sideways rock and psychedelic blues feel alongside a well known backdrop of alternative country and blues. Be prepared for surprisingly deep soul tunes and then rocking original songs to tempt you to the dance floor.



25 May - Jungle Jim Smith

You can't stay still with our local Jungle Jim in the House!

Armed with a 3-string cigar box guitar, trusty 6-string, and stompin' foot drums, Jungle Jim Smith is a one-man-blues show with a rock'n'roll heart. Delivered with a raw vocal croon, his electrifying blend of swamp and hill country blues pumps with rockabilly grit, forging a full-band sound uniquely his own.

Last year's 7-track debut 'Electric Boogieland' was released to a great response, with a follow up album planned for 2024.

Beyond May

The SPM committee will take a break over June, July and most of August and will be back with more music for your soul. We will keep you posted on what's coming up!



24 August will see **Jordie Lane** back at Sandy Point. What an opportunity to see this folk/roots artist with 24 thousand followers on Spotify. Check him out. Details will be on our website soon.

Staying in Touch

Thanks again for your support and attendance to our gigs, it's the only way we can keep going.

Please visit our new website **sandypointmusic.com** for all things Sandy Point Music including upcoming shows, ticket links, gallery, past shows, how to connect and a bit about us. We would like to thank Glenda Scott for her dedication and time in the development of our site. Also remember we are on Facebook and Instagram.

Article by Gabrielle Stefani, show photos by Donna Killeen

Sandy Point Community Centre & TP Taylor Reserve Community Asset Committee



Whilst the Community Centre remains a popular meeting spot, we have unfortunately been the victim of some vandalism, namely the septic system. The Centre is not just a Council asset but an asset to all the community, so if you are passing by and see some misbehaviour, please contact one of the Committee to follow up. The council has limited funds and repairs are mostly listed for the following financial year rather than immediately attended to.

Regular users of the Centre continue and you would be most welcome to attend any of the regular happenings:

- Table Tennis - Monday and Friday, 9.00am
- Community Yoga - Monday, 5.30pm
- Tai chi - Tuesday, 11.00am
- Pilates - Wednesday, 8.30am

The Centre's bookings continue to ensure that the Centre is fully used during the summer holidays and summer months. We have hosted Kidz Klub, yoga, pilates, Bass Coast Leadership Development Camp and a number of weddings, as well as the most successful Sandy Point Music nights. The Foodies Market once again was a great success and we congratulate the Sandy Point Community Group for hosting and organising this event. It is certainly a popular event on the Summer calendar.

Over the summer months the tennis courts were fully utilized and as such we collected over \$1500 membership and hire fees along with the regular table tennis participants' fees. We will endeavour to continue to maintain the tennis courts for community use.

We have received letters of concern from some community members and also the Community Group's President on behalf of that committee on the matter of the lack of fencing near the playground. The committee has contacted the Council on a number of occasions in relation to the lack of adequate fencing and are awaiting a response from Council before any further action can be taken.

Just recently we had an interesting presentation from a representative from Stroke Safe, a non profit organisation informing the community about how to prevent a Stroke. We will continue to hold community interest meetings and attempt to inform members of the community when they are to occur. I suggest you regularly check the main entrance to the Centre, social media and the notice board near the community garden.

Finally, the Community e-Bus will be up and running by the time this newsletter is released. A schedule will be posted in the Community Centre window and at the notice board on the path to the boardwalk, as well as information at the General Store. Keep an eye out for 'Sandy' and book a ride if you need a lift.

*Dot Devine, Secretary,
Sandy Point Community Centre*

Rob Davies

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EASTER ART SHOW



Champagne corks will be popping this Easter to celebrate the coming of age of the Sandy Point Art Show.

The 21st Art Show will be officially opened at the Sandy Point Community Centre on Friday 29 March and will be open to the public from Saturday, 30 March until Monday, 1 April from 10am to 4pm.

The brain child of Sandy Point identities Marj and Don Head, who even camped outside the hall to act as security guards, the inaugural show opened its doors in the original T.P. Taylor Hall at Easter 2003. Since then the much loved Art Show has attracted artists' contributions from all over South Gippsland and beyond with more than 3,000 artworks showcased during the past 20 years.

The Art Show now offers prizes in many categories. Works in Oil, Acrylic, Watercolour, Mixed Media, Photography Drawing - Pastel, Pencil & Ink, Sculpture -3D including Ceramics and Mosaics are invited. There is also a Junior Artists' section and prize money for Best In Show (\$500) and the Joyce Crawford People's Choice award (\$350). Winning entries are decided by an independent panel of qualified judges. All sponsorship contributions are allocated as prize money with \$3700 awarded in 2023.

The Art Show has been held despite many challenges, including moving to the new Community Centre, many Easters where the weather was more than inclement and even the Covid pandemic.

Funds raised by the Art Show stay in the Sandy Point community and have contributed towards several upgrades of Hall facilities, as well as assisting the promotion of other local events.

As with most community based events, the Sandy Point Art Show is dependant upon the generosity of loyal sponsors, the goodwill and interest of local residents and visitors alike and a dedicated group of volunteers. And also like most community events, there is always a need for volunteers who will give up some of their time each year to ensure the smooth running of the show. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with the myriad of tasks ranging from promotion and communication assistance to Community Centre set up and hanging of the art works.

If you are interested in helping with the 2025 Art Show, Di Cooper would be pleased to hear from you on 0418 336 690.



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Wildlife in Sandy Point

FUTURE EVENTS

27 April 10am-12pm WiSP Habitat Planting Day for the Coastal Banksia Project. Sausage Sizzle afterwards.
www.sandypoint.vic.au/events/coast-banksia-woodland-activity9

ANIMAL WELFARE

This quarter saw a large volume of responses.

Five ring tail possum joeys were responded to. Concern that the joeys were being abandoned due to poor food supply was raised but not confirmed by experts.

Two little penguins were responded to. Both were transported to Phillip Island Nature Park (PINP) for care however the second was taken to Sue Moore for care before being taken to PINP and survived. It will be released at Phillip Island.

A koala was also responded to and is in care and the previous koala unfortunately died after being treated for mange and looking towards rehabilitation and release. It's believed he was elderly.

Two dead wombats (car strike) were attended and one had a joey that did not survive.

Multiple seals were reported and the Melbourne Zoo Marine Response Unit attended one with a bad eye that had been previously reported. It unfortunately died during the rescue.

A blue tongue lizard and cormorant were also transported to the veterinary and unfortunately had to be euthanised or died on the way.

Four wombats were treated for mange during this time. There are at least three mangy wombats in the area that are being sought for treatment.

HABITAT REHABILITATION

Please see Coast Banksia Woodland Project article.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On January 6th WiSP had a food stall and raffle at the SPCG Foodies and Artisans Market. The WiSP volunteers sold out of 200 BBQ pulled pork and brisket rolls in just 90 mins. The Marg Grumley Baby Animals Quilt raffle generated \$762 that went directly to our two primary wildlife carers, Sue Moore and Jenny Bryant. Over \$2000 was raised. Thank you so much Sandy Point community and visitors.

On 13 January WiSP held an 'Everything Koalas' event that included a children's activity session and presentation and a koala discussion with our special presenter, Sue Moore. During the day WiSP had a Habitat display with desirable and undesirable plants, and gave a presentation about WiSP and the CoastCare Victoria funded Coast Banksia Woodland Project.





EVERYTHING KOALAS



Sue provided a talk on her work at Bass Coast Wildlife Rescue and Shelter. She talked about the different diseases koalas are subjected to, including mange and chlamydia, and stated that chlamydia symptoms present themselves when koalas are compromised. Luckily Sandy Point has only had two cases of chlamydia reported since 2015. Sue took questions and gave us advice on how we can best manage the small but important koala population we have in Sandy Point and the Reserve.

The day ended with the 2023/24 Sandy Point Koala Survey Results. Participation was large again with 71 sightings reported. 26 individual koalas were counted in the first two days and included a short duration count in the Shallow Inlet Reserve for the first time (six counted here). One injured koala (mum with a joey) was reported but no intervention was required. Nine mum and joey pairs were reported (maybe six individual pairs) and at least three different young koalas (based on locations) were observed. The population is at least replacing itself with young. A broad estimate is 35-45 individuals.

www.sandypoint.vic.au/s/2024-Koala-Survey-Results.pdf

- If you want to see or post Sandy Point area wildlife please become a member of our face book notice board here. www.facebook.com/groups/364325165518116/
- If you want to be on the WiSP email distribution list please contact us on wildlifeinsandypoint@gmail.com
- If you want to support our Wildlife in Sandy Point program please make a direct donation to the account with Pay id: wildlifeinsandypoint@gmail.com or WiSP BSB: 633 000 Acct: 161 432 976

*Thank you for your continued support and interest.
The WiSP Team*

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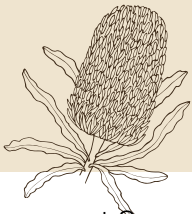
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COAST BANKSIA WOODLAND PROJECT

After a wet Summer and now a much drier Autumn we can see some changes within the project site at Shallow Inlet. Our project area is very different to when we started in July 2023.

Take a look at these three photos of the Periwinkle weed *Vinca Major* along the track side, Roy Henderson Trail.

Rob O'Sullivan completed the contractor Spring weed spraying (Grant funding) along the sides of the Roy Henderson trail in November. He will complete another Autumn spraying in April. We hope to be planting indigenous grasses as tube stock as well as trees (sheoaks, banksias) in April 2024. We have sourced corflute tree guards for the grasses and will be looking for help with the building of chicken-wire tree guards that will be required for the sheoaks and banksias.

We have proposed dates for some mid-week site preparation on Thursday mornings that will enable the planting to progress smoothly and quickly. This is going to be a low key look at each of the main planting sites, assessing what number of plants can be planted and some minor weeding at these sites, followed by a cuppa. **We have also chosen a date for the planting day which will be Saturday 27 April 2024 and we hope to have sausage sizzle for lunch on that day.**

We are looking forward to seeing the end result of the year's work with the new plantings and would love to have help. If you're able to come please let us know at sandypointhabitat@gmail.com

Mid-Week site preparations:

- **Thursday 14 March 9am to 11am - Completed**
- **Thursday 28 March 9am to 11am**
- **Thursday 11 April 9am to 11am**

Planting Day:

- **Saturday 27 April 10am to 2pm. Sausage sizzle for lunch.**



Sandy Point Community Group



KOALA HABITAT - Manna Gum Plantation Maintenance

In the Manna Gum Plantation to the north of the Sandy Point Road, there are many trees planted a number of years ago. Some of the larger trees had guards removed as they were deemed ready to be browsed by any koalas that frequented the area. Unfortunately the trees must have been extra tasty as they had been over-eaten by the koalas.

So one hot morning, 12 WiSP volunteers recently replaced some guards and mended others. The rotted stakes were replaced with new ones sourced from Meeniyana for a reasonable price. The stakes were paid for by money raised by WiSP volunteers at various functions.

This plantation can be reached via the recently slashed track that runs off the Roy Henderson trail to the north. Thank you labourers and money raisers, and the Foreshore Committee for clearing the track which enabled vehicular access.



SALT MARSH - Walk and Talk

In January WiSP, in conjunction with CoastCare's Summer by the Sea program, conducted a Walk and Talk session at the inlet. During this session, the importance of salt marshes was discussed as well as changes made to the Shallow Inlet salt marsh by shifting channels and shifting sand dunes. Also mentioned was the interface between the salt marsh and the adjacent farming land.

During the walk many of the salt marsh plants were in flower which made identification, using the supplied ID brochures, easier. This brochure, and 2 others, can be downloaded from the SPCG website.

www.sandypoint.vic.au/coast-banksia-woodland-project



Cherry and Henri
sandypointhabitat@gmail.com



Kim Pammer
Garden Design

kimpammer@gmail.com
0488992779

Profile

Kim grew up in rural Victoria where much of her childhood was spent exploring the bush and enjoying the freedom of living in the country. As a graduate from Burnley Horticultural College, Melbourne University, her love of the outdoors is reflected in her design work, where she aims to create spaces that are not only beautiful but encourage a connection with nature and are individual to each situation. She mainly uses natural materials and plants suited to the local conditions. The outcome is a garden that not only meets the clients' needs, but also has meaning and helps create a 'sense of place.'



Photo : Graeme Johanson

SHALLOW INLET

Shifting Sands, part 2

THE BIG DUNE FENCE FIASCO

Further to the article about the “Big Dune” in the last issue, some long term residents/visitors to Sandy Point may remember the sand dune fence.

Prior to the dune being planted with marram grass, the Foreshore Committee of the time, around early 1970s, came to the (wrong) conclusion that the vehicle activity on the dune was the cause of the major sand drift that was rapidly moving North. Their solution was to erect a fence across the front of the dune and continuing around the corner to the South.

One of the Committee members worked for the old Country Roads Board and managed to source a supply of second hand “white posts” that were used to mark roadsides, and also a quantity of heavy duty steel cable. This took a huge amount of work, as the posts were the old 5 inch square redgum, and each one had to be drilled with holes to thread the steel cable through.

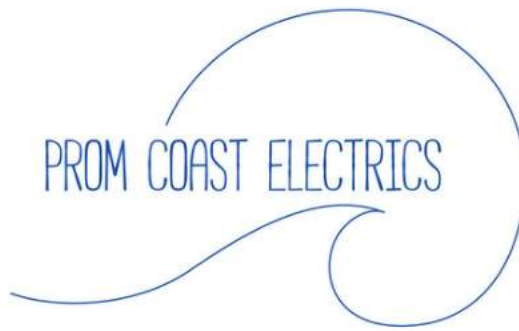
There were a few unforeseen consequences of the fence, the main one was losing the ability to park vehicles and boat trailers high enough up the beach to remain out of the water during high tides, as seen in the photos. As most of us expected, the fence had no effect on the stability of the dunes, and after a couple of years it was completely covered in sand and disappeared.

About 15 years later, after the dune was stabilised with marram grass and began to recede to the South, the fence reappeared looking a bit the worse for wear. The steel cable was rusting and broken in places and a real danger to children playing on the dune. It took a considerable amount of work to remove over a period of time, as the dune did not recede evenly.

The moral of this story - always seek professional advice.

Article and photos by Ray Henderson





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State Government Announces First Round of '100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program'

The recipients of funds for the first round of the Victorian Government's \$42M 'Neighbourhood Battery' project program have just been announced. In this round 25 batteries will be installed across the state with Mondo, the commercial arm of our distribution network owner AusNet, awarded \$5.2M to install 21 of these batteries on the network. Seven of these will be installed on Philip Island where the electricity supply system is very close to full capacity during the evening peak. Four batteries will be located in Queenscliff. Mondo will also install ten smaller pole-mounted batteries in other locations across the state. Smaller 'behind-the-meter' batteries will be installed at sporting facilities and community buildings by other organisations in Wodonga, Yackandandah, Tatura and Wangaratta.

The aim of the program is to use the batteries to soak up excess rooftop solar that is fed into the grid during the day, then discharge the power during the evening peak. Communities benefit as more solar can be feed into the grid than would otherwise be the case. Mondo have also pledged to make contributions to local community projects in conjunction with their projects.

Source: [Network company wins most of funding in latest community battery grants](#) | [RenewEconomy](#)

Update on AusNet 2026-31 price reset & work plans

You may recall that we have a Sandy Point representative on the AusNet 2026-2031 Electrical Distribution Price Review process. This is a process that each electricity and gas distribution company must complete every five years. The outcome is a proposal detailing a works plan with associated costs covering this 5-year period.

In establishing their workplan, AusNet has to make estimates of electricity demand which will change between now and 2031. There are some key factors driving change including; population growth and the number of new connections, the rate of transition from home gas appliances to electric and the number of 'all-electric' new home that will be built, the rate of installation of new solar panels and batteries, and the rate of uptake of electric vehicles. Ausnet have sourced data and forecasts from recognised organisations to make these estimates.

It is expected that most of capital works to expand the capacity of the electricity network will be located in the new suburbs to the north and east of Melbourne. There will also be a program to replace ageing network assets such as old wooden poles which have reached the end of their operating life. AusNet are also developing plans to improve the reliability of supply to the 'worst-served-customer' and the resilience of the grid against major climatic events.

There is much work still to be done on the plan before it is submitted to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) for thorough review and approval. The regulators job is to represent us by ensuring that all costs are both 'prudent' ie. required, and 'cost-efficient' ie. that the best solution option has been selected and that the benefit to customers outweighs the cost.

Both AusNet and the AER are very alert to the cost-of-living pressures that some customers are experiencing. Together, they have a shared responsibility to deliver a work plan that balances the competing needs to set the electricity network up to allow us to meet our renewable energy targets, while constraining cost increases to customers.

Attendance at Community Energy Conference

A Community Energy Congress was held recently at Darling Harbour in Sydney. To save people travelling to Sydney, a number of virtual regional 'hubs' were established where community members could listen to and ask questions of the speakers. One of these hubs was set up in the SGSC meeting room in Leongatha.

A highlight of the congress was the presentation from Saul Griffiths who you may have seen in the media. He is championing the 'Electrify Everything' campaign. His proposition is that we need to transition all power generation away from coal and gas to renewable sources as soon as possible, and switch from gas appliances to electric. Saul is a compelling speaker and presented irrefutable evidence for action on renewable energy in a thoroughly digestible and entertaining manner.

*Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.
The crew at Sandy Point Community Power
Email: energy@sandypoint.vic.au*



PROM COAST PACK RUNS



**March 24
beach pack run**



Nearly 30 participants braved the heat predicted and the strong westerly to make it another successful PROM COAST PACK RUNS.

Once again we had many new faces down for the long weekend at Sandy Point, and Jen jetted in from an Ireland winter to experience a 3 day heatwave. Sandy locals were first back in the 3k & 10k. Well done Michelle and Owen. A young George ran a very fast 5k to beat the majority of runners and Fish Creek teacher Tiarnie took out the 8k.

The next event will be at the Foster Rail Trail on Sunday 14th April and will be hosted by Laura & Xavier from Prom Health in Foster.

Don't forget the Parkruns every Saturday at Koonwarra, Inverloch & Mirboo North.

Craig Couper
cazacouper@yahoo.com.au



Jen from Ireland



Michelle from Sandy

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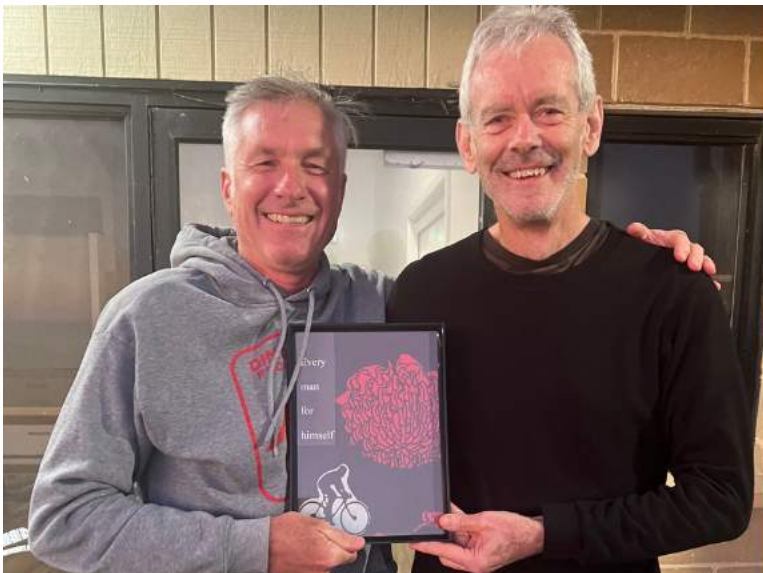
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Elite cycling club Luna Riders descended on Sandy Point for the annual 'Tour de Prom' on 16 March. The Luna Riders joined up with local cycling group Waratah Worriers for a tour of our quiet country roads and beautiful scenery in perfect weather conditions. Luna Riders were again impressed with the high level cycling skills demonstrated by the Waratah Worriers and many of them took away newly learned skills.

Local Sandy Point resident Cam Wells won the top cycling award for the weekend. Greg Johnson EMFH AM was disqualified early in the ride. Local farmer Dick Tracy was a strong contender for the award but unfortunately he was a late scratching. Dick is often seen at the front of the pack showing us his cracking form. It was a bit of a Bradbury finish for Wells, but nevertheless said he deserved the award after three years of solid training. New members welcome. Contact Linda 0459 036 086



Editor's note: **Congratulations to our SPCG Committee member, Greg Johnson, on receiving an AM in this year's Australia Day Honours** not so much, though, for receiving the EMFH award in the Tour de Prom - bit disappointing.



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Fish Creek Football Netball Club

Terrill Park, Fish Creek. P.O. Box 71, Fish Creek, Victoria, 3959
 Email: fishcreekfnc@hotmail.com

"We need your help...."

The Fish Creek Football Netball Club will welcome your support for season 2024. Your assistance through purchasing a club membership will enable us to maintain the high standards that we strive to achieve each year both on and off the field and court.

The Committee and the Rebuild Committee have been extremely busy over the off season, building temporary club rooms, completing the covered spectator area, hosting fundraising events, meeting with officials and potential sponsors, working on a membership drive as well as organising teams, coaches and support staff.

We invite you to our first match of the year to witness the unfurling of the 2023 Seniors and the Under 17 Netball Premiership flags on the 13th April, when we play the Grand Final rematch against Newborough at home in Fish Creek.

If you would like to become a member or can support the club through sponsorship or in any other way please contact:
 Dot 0409 011 842 or Kim 0409 014 811
 or email us at fncmembership@gmail.com

For more information on upcoming events and happenings please check the Facebook page – Fish Creek Kangaroos or Instagram at fishcreekfnc or you can approach any one of the Committee members.

*Dot Devine and Kim Kemper
 Membership - FCFNC*



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For more information, ring Joyce 0402 663 055

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Waratah Beach SLSC

THANK YOU

We're nearing the patrol season's end, but much is still happening at Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club. We hope that we continue to see many of you around the clubhouse in the coming weeks before we settle into a beautiful Sandy Point winter.

We welcome everyone to join us for a drink, pizza, fish and chips, and to listen to the wonderful Fiona Curram over the long Easter weekend. See the calendar for more information!

If you visited the club over the season, you would have noticed the significant and extensive improvements made across many areas of the club. Social members would have enjoyed the new deck, seating and umbrellas, new bathrooms, and the expanded bar storage, making more meals and adding pizzas to the menu.

All of these works were completed in a record three months after we received the long-awaited approvals. Our renovations also included a new member kitchen, makeovers of existing bunk rooms, toilets, changing areas, and commissioning bathrooms and outdoor showers.

The club would like to acknowledge the many wonderful volunteers who dedicated hours of their time over the past few months and in the lead-up to the season. These thanks extend to the community and visitors who supported the club and all of the events and activities!

If you have any feedback on our club or suggestions for next summer—please don't hesitate to reach out to.
info@waratahbeach.com.au.



NEWS

In the next newsletter, we will give a complete season wrap of all areas of our Club's season, including Nippers and Current Cruiser. In the meantime, we encourage you to sign up for our social media channels or member newsletters, which are packed with news each month. Please find the links and details at the end of this newsletter.

State Champions

For the 5th time the Waratah Beach SLSC has come in first place for the Patrol Competition as a part of the state lifesaving championships. The competition includes fitness tests (swim and rescues), patrol scenarios, theory exams, CPR performance, and all-round lifesaving skills where teams are judged on their performance. Congratulations to our team this year: Jameson, Sarah, Sunday, Tempest, Daniel & Lucas on your success.



Volunteers Wanted

We are a vibrant, caring and fun-loving Club, but we always need an extra pair of hands. So no matter what your age, skill level, or passion area, we are sure we can find you the perfect role at the Club.

Simply complete the following [form](#) or send us an email at info@waratahbeach.com.au, and we will be in touch.

EASTER WEEKEND & SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Friday
March
29



The Sunset Bar will be open 4-8.30pm
Pizza, Fish & Chips available from 5pm



Saturday
March
30



The Sunst Bar will be open 4-8.30pm
Pizza, Fish & Chips available from 5pm
Fiona Curram - Live and Free



Sunday
March
31



Volunteer 'Thank You' event 3-5 pm
The Sunset Bar will be open from 4 pm
Pizza and Fish & Chips available from 5 pm



The Sunset Bar will also be open Saturday 6th and 13th April 4-8.30 pm





**Sandy Point
Community Group**

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Membership Type *

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- Postage of print quarterly newsletter \$12 (optional)
- Donation to SPCG (optional)

Donation amount (optional)

The SPCG appreciates your support.

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Payment method *

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 - Beach Parade,
 - Sandy Point 3959
- **OR** - Submit the online form at www.sandypoint.vic.au/payment-options

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Sandy Point Community Group
BSB: 633 000
Account No: 1440 68590
Reference: **YOUR NAME**

Cash or Cheque

Post or deliver with your completed form to -

SPCG
c/o Sandy Point General Store
Beach Parade,
Sandy Point 3959

Email membership@sandypoint.vic.au for further payment options or inquiries.

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Please join us - go to www.sandypoint.vic.au/membership

or complete this paper form and see details for alternative payment methods



Sandy Point
Community Group

... just a few of our
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playground
long slide



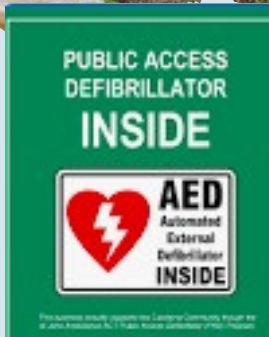
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sandcastle
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www.sandyPoint.vic.au/membership

The Sandy Point Community Group, through community engagement, advocates on behalf of the community and is committed to preserving our unique natural environment.

From the Editor - news@sandypoint.vic.au



*Give us your
Best Shot!*

Photo credit: Roz Carter

Email your Best Shot to news@sandypoint.vic.au
or upload your photos at www.sandypoint.vic.au/best-shot

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